

SITUATION REPORT NO. 21
INCIDENT NO. 2000-016
DATE: July 21, 2000 TIME: 3:00 p.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, N.D. 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Flooding and ground saturation – Due to a series of storms and high water tables, resulting from eight years of consecutive flooding.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: The Stutsman County emergency manager reported that 2.5 inches of rain fell in the county on July 11. Approximately 150 feet of County Road 62 south of Cleveland was inundated because of the storm. The portion of the road under water is a closed basin with no way to get rid of the water. This road is a major route between Cleveland and Gackle.

Residents in the city of Petersburg continue to experience problems with increased surface water and ground water. The city has been working with the Department of Health as the increased surface water may have jeopardized the city's lagoon system. Additionally, reports indicate that water infiltrating into basements is causing cracked walls, foundation and mold problems.

The Pembina County emergency manager reported that high winds or a tornado flattened wheat fields and blew eight grain bins off their foundations at the Cargill Elevator in Joliette on July 15.

The Ramsey County emergency manager reported on July 17, that high winds and rain damaged two farmsteads southwest of Penn.

4. RESOURCES:
LOCAL: No change from previous reports.
STATE: No change from previous reports.
FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.
5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: The American Red Cross reports over 1,000 mental health contacts had been made by July 17.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: On July 20, Governor Schafer requested the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to amend 1134-DR-ND to include Benson and Ramsey Counties as eligible for Public Assistance and Burleigh, Pembina, Renville, Richland, Rolette and Sargent Counties as

eligible for Public Assistance and Individual Assistance. Based on county emergency declarations and new FEMA rules for bordering counties, Governor Schafer also requested contiguous county designations for the Individual Assistance Program for Barnes, Burke, Cavalier, Dickey, Emmons, LaMoure, Logan, Morton, Mountrail, Oliver, Steele, Stutsman, Towner and Ward Counties.

Due to the storm of July 11, Stutsman County emergency manager reports that the railroad viaduct was flooded and closed by the Jamestown police department. A number of Jamestown city streets were flooded and barricaded.

The City of Lincoln declared an emergency on July 17, due to excessive runoff from episodes of torrential rainfall that has aggravated ongoing high water level conditions threatening sewage lagoons.

The City of Gackle declared an emergency on July 20, due to high water table and rains occurring from April to July, 2000 that caused damage to the lagoon system and other public facilities.

As of July 18, 2000: 5,028 North Dakotans had registered for assistance through FEMA's teleregistration center. Of those, 4,108 applications are under review by the Disaster Housing Program. To date, FEMA has paid more than \$4,450,066 million in housing benefits and completed 3,750 home inspections.

- Disaster Unemployment Assistance has 446 claims filed, of which thirty-four (34) have been approved in the amount of \$8,514.
- The Individual and Family Grant Program, administered by North Dakota Emergency Management, has received 1,296 applications and has approved \$460,993 in benefits.
- The Small Business Administration has issued 4,392 applications to disaster victims and has administered \$424,900 in loans as of July 18, 2000.

The Disaster Recovery Center in Grand Forks ceased operations on July 20. The Disaster Recovery Center in Fargo remains open.

Disaster Recovery Centers will open up in three communities next week to answer questions and provide information to individuals who have been affected by the severe storms, flooding and ground saturation. The teams will be located at: Gilby Community Center on July 24, Emerado Fire Department on July 25 and Community Room in Larimore on July 26. Applicants for disaster programs will be assisted from 10 a.m until 8 p.m.

The Department of Health has cautioned residents about the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning from gas operated pumps or power washers used to clean up after the flood.

Based on information provided by his Agriculture Policy Director, the Governor has requested the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to consider the following types of assistance for agriculture producers negatively affected by this springs heavy rains and associated flooding:

1. Changes to crop insurance to include acre coverage and/or dollar coverage;
 2. Paying an LDP on estimated bushels, county average or historical bushels using FSA yield of the farm as part of any disaster assistance package;
 3. Provide leniency or change in program rules, allowing producers to adjust planted acres down and report remaining acres as prevented planting;
 4. Asking federal agencies to consider providing forbearance on collateral requirements for disaster loans;
 5. Providing producer access to CRP acres for haying and grazing, if necessary.
7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: Golden Valley County and Billings County on July 11 issued emergency declarations for widespread agricultural damage related to adverse weather conditions during critical plant growing periods. Both counties are requesting that CRP acreage be released for grazing and haying.

A workshop on the National Flood Insurance Program will be held at the Civic Center in Grand Forks on July 25 and at the Memorial Building, North Dakota State University in Fargo on July 27. This is a free one day class designed for architects, floodplain administrators, realtors, insurance agents, lenders and building officials.

Informational Centers have been opened to provide homeowners with hazard mitigation measures that could reduce future flood damages. These centers are being set up at the West Acres Mall, Fleet Farm Building and North Port Malls in Fargo

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<http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director